



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

PATENT APPLICATION

Hungming J. Liaw, et al.

NOVEL BACTERIAL STRAINS, METHODS
OF PREPARING THE SAME AND USE
THEREOF IN FERMENTATION
PROCESSES FOR L-LYSINE PRODUCTION

Serial No.: 09/630,454

Group Art Unit: 1645

Filed: August 2, 2000

Examiner: Devi, Sarvamangala J N

Mail Stop AF
 Commissioner for Patents
 P.O. Box 1450
 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219
 May 6, 2004

**AMENDMENT AND REPLY TO FINAL OFFICIAL
 ACTION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116**

Sir:

This is in response to the Final Official Action mailed March 9, 2004, in connection with the above-captioned Application, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire June 9, 2004. This Amendment and Reply is submitted within the two-month period of the mailing date of the final action. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner issue an advisory action before the end of the three-month period ending June 9, 2004. The Examiner's objections and rejections have been carefully considered, and in view of the following remarks and amendments, reconsideration and early allowance of all pending claims is courteously requested.

Please amend this Application as follows: